



Proof 1833 Half Dollar

John Reich Journal

Volume 5/Number 1

July 1990

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O.Box 205 Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$10.00

For membership information write to the above address.

The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and/or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editor. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

David J. Davis, Editor
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Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

John Reich Journal

Official publication of the
JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Volume 5 No.1

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Whole No. 12

CONTENTS

EDITOR'S COMMENTS	2
PLAUDITS, PANS, AND PERPLEXING POINTS	5
DOUBLE PROFILE BUST HALVES - ANOTHER UPDATE by Donald Parsley	10
THE NUMISMATIC LITERATURE OF EARLY U.S. COINAGE by Jeff Rock, NLG	13
RIM BREAKS ON 1806 B-6 QUARTER by Julius Reiver	20
QUESTIONING THE CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS by Edgar Souders	23
CONJECTURE ON THE ORIGIN OF THE 1820/19 HALF DOLLAR by William Atkinson	28
A FRIDAY SURPRISE by David Davis	30
FRONTIER INGENUITY & COINCIDENCES by David Davis	32
TREASURER'S REPORT by Russell Logan	I/S Back Cover

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

'Tis July already and the time is flying by. A.N.A. is just around the corner and here is the first 1990 issue of the **Journal**. This is the first real exposure of the new members to my skills at procrastination. Cheer up one and all, my promise to catch up some day has not been forgotten. I intend to get the next issue out by the end of September.

I don't want to bore you with details of my June 14 to July 9 vacation to the U.K. (Britain, Wales and Scotland), but it did take up a lot of my time the last couple of months and it is a wee bit of an excuse for my tardiness.

There has been a lot happening since Vol.4 No.3 was mailed in March. The Willasch collection of half dollars and dollars is now history, and Superior should be complimented on another great sale. Anyone care to share their experiences at, or with, the sale? I understand the prices generally were strong, but a lot of the coins had been cleaned and that dampened some of the enthusiasm. One of our Michigan members sold his collection of half dimes, dimes and half dollars in Coin Galleries, July 18, 1990, Mail Bid Sale. I sent in a few bids, but haven't heard anything yet. It almost seems a shame when a collection is disbursed, but in many cases that is the only way the rest of us can add to our collections.

Allen Lovejoy, one of the co-authors of the Dime book, has announced the consignment of his dime collection to Stack's. The coins will be in their mid-October sale. The collection comprises more than 670 pieces and will surely go down in history as the greatest collection of dimes ever held by a single individual. Not only is it the most complete variety set ever assembled, it is replete with discovery specimens, finest knowns, and proofs. Allen has the only complete collection of all known 151 varieties of early dimes, over 70 of which are in mint state. Called the 'Reference Collection' by Stack's, a great many of the coins are plate coins for the early U.S. and Seated Liberty dime books.

I thought you would appreciate how he came to his decision to sell:

"Why am I selling my dime collection? Because:

- it is difficult, time consuming and expensive to improve the specimens in my dime collection,
- I can make a better deal with the auctioneer than my estate (thereby compensating for the capital gain effect),

- it will reduce the complexity of my estate,
- the recently formed multi-million dollar coin funds should make for a strong market,
- it will give me great pleasure to know that some of you may find a place in your collections for some of my dimes,
- I can devote more time to my collections of British hammered sceats, pennies and groats, and U.S. type coins, and
- I can use the money for other purposes."

After the decision was made to sell his collection, Allen Lovejoy forwarded his resignation from the Board. We will miss his guiding hand and help. Without his drive the dime book probably would not have been finished as quickly. He also was instrumental in forming the "John Reich Collectors Society," and he wrote our bylaws. I would like to thank you on behalf of the dime book co-authors and the Society. Allen, good luck in your new collecting pursuits.

The returns from "The Best Liked Article" ballots have been tallied and the results are very similar to last year. It was a two-tiered race. Sheridan Downey III's article on PAUL MUNSON'S BUST HALF DOLLAR COLLECTION edged his ANA DIARY - 1989 story by six votes. About 20 votes back was Russ Logan's CONDITION CENSUS - HALF DOLLARS 1794-1807 which just nosed out John McCloskey's article on CLASSIC GOLD HALF EAGLES by four votes. Next in line was THIRTY QUESTIONS, etc. by Edgar Souders, just one vote in front of A DIE STUDY: THE 1834 CAPPED BUST HALVES O-113 & O-114, by Craig Sholley and Souders. There were more respondents than in 1989, but my deadline didn't seem to bother anyone. I was still getting ballots in early June. All votes were included in the tally and I, personally, want to thank all of our authors. All comments received were praises or requests for more articles on the other series.

The number of members who send in an additional contribution with their renewal seems to be a strong indication of the support for JRCS and our goals. The Officers and members thank you, one and all, for the extra financial assistance. While there have been more members this year than last, who have not yet renewed, I suspect the next notice will jog their memories. We need to get the word out to the collecting fraternity to expand our membership, and the best way is by word of mouth. I don't like to see the Journal cut up to use an application printed therein and therefore have enclosed an extra application blank for every member. If you need extra copies of the application or the JR Journal for recruiting purposes just drop me a note.

The Journal is mailed first class in a kraft paper envelope to protect it during transit. If your copy does not arrive in good condition let me know and a replacement will be mailed to you.

Any member who purchased a copy of the Dime book, but did not get a copy of the errata page, i.e., the correct pictures for variety JR-13, should write for same. It makes it a lot easier to attribute the variety.

There has been no further news on the new 1825 half dollar variety that was reported about at last years A.N.A. convention and, therefore, I am assuming the coin turned out to be bogus. That should help all of the Bust Half Nuts who aspire to complete a variety set sleep easier. The 450 known varieties are already a formidable task.

Did everyone see us highlighted in the, May 13, 1900 issue of Coin World? When they contacted me about including JRCS in the 'Specialty Spotlight' they asked about a logo. I told them we didn't have anything but the symbol I came up with for the first issue of the JR Journal and our stationary. Should we continue to use it or come up with something else? Anybody have any suggestions?

You will notice there is still no condition census included herein. The responses for the dollar census were too few and too late for inclusion. I have the dollar article for the next issue. It is **not** too late to send in any changes or additional censuses. We could use more participation.

The annual meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am in Meeting Room 607. There will be a program on "The differences in Miss Liberty's features as depicted on the half dime, dime, quarter, half dollar and dollar obverses." Bone up on the subject so you can contribute to the discussion.

PLAUDITS, PANS, etc. feature a long letter from Bill Atkinson and letters from a lot of other members. This type of discussion is what we need, and more of you should join in. There have been too many questions asked with little or no response and not enough comments either contradicting or supporting past articles. Don't be afraid to disagree with anything printed in the Journal. Most of us are not experts and the experts are not always right.

This page is just about full and I will leave off my usual comments about the contents. I am going to close with a welcome to our new board member, and Rocky Mountain Representative, Robert Spangler. Onward to Seattle!

David J. Davis

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

I would like to respond to Sheridan Downey's comment (JR Journal, Vol. 4, No. 3, pg. 35, bottom) about my letter to the editor in **Coin World** on the problems of reselling common coins at a profit to dealers.

My response is best summed up by the line in the old Certs commercial: "Stop! You're both right."

My editorial stressed the fact that collectors of common coins tend to lose money when they resell their coins. The flood of responses to **Coin World** in agreement with this view surprised not only me, but the staff of **Coin World**. (It was, by the way, this unprecedented outpouring of response from readers that led the publication to ask me to begin writing my monthly "Consumer Advocate" column.)

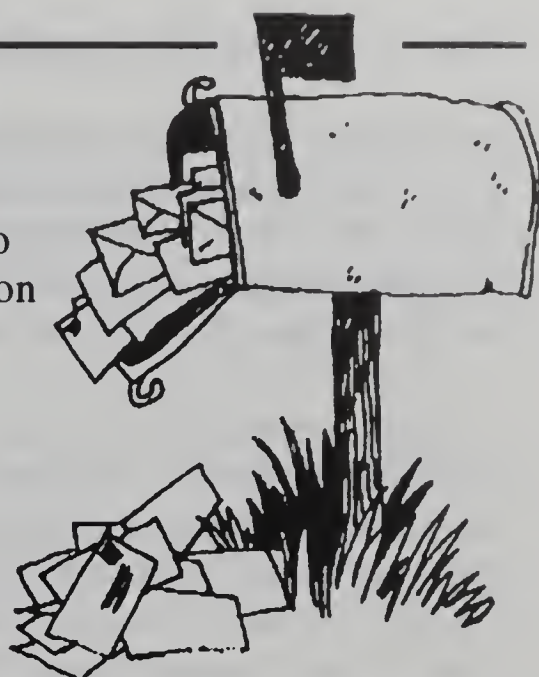
As is true with all forms of communication, though, there was room for misunderstanding. Some people evidently overlooked the specific term I used--"common coins".

I would never suggest that all coins are poor investments. Indeed, auction records prove categorically that many collectors reap huge fortunes reselling their coins.

I, in fact, recently sold my whole capped bust half dollar collection at auction and did not lose money. I didn't make any money, but that was because I had purchased most of the coins in the last two or three years and sold out in order to add additional funding to my consumer education efforts. As such I was very happy to break even. Had I kept my collection longer before I sold, I certainly would have profited handsomely.

In fact, my coins probably would have sold for even more money than they did, but there were some factors working against that:

- The auction was so large the cataloger chose to group several of my coins (conservatively graded VF to XF early date pieces) in multiple ("dealer") lots. It is common knowledge that few collectors purchase multiple lots. They prefer to buy individual coins. As such, these "dealer lots" are usually bid on only by dealers, many of whom meet prior to the auction and "divvy up" the lots (ie: decide who will bid on what), so that they don't compete with each other and drive the prices up unnecessarily. In other words, most of these "multiple lots" end up being sold to dealers at wholesale prices.
- Another problem was that the cataloger (who was supposed to be an expert in the series), failed to identify many of the popular **Redbook** varieties. For example, he lumped my EF 1814 "single leaf" (O-105A) in with several other coins in a nondescript "dealer lot" and



did not even identify the coin as the “single leaf” variety. He did the same with my EF 1817 “single leaf” (O-106A); it, too, was lumped into a nondescript “dealer lot”. The same with my EF 1814 “E/A STATES” (O-108A); this, too, was dumped in a “dealer lot” with no description of the variety. All of this in spite of the fact that I specifically noted and described these special varieties on the holders that I sent them in.

• Grading, certainly, is subjective. I don’t expect people to agree on the “eleven point” uncirculated system. I don’t even expect auction houses to agree on the grades assigned by other auction houses or dealers. However, this particular auction house downgraded several of the very coins I had purchased from their own auctions a year or two earlier! Certainly, I could have sent the auction slips to the auction firm, identifying these specific coins as ones I had purchased from them (thus assuring the same grade for my auction), but I purposely chose not to do so, as an experiment to see what would happen. (I needed the education more than I needed the money.) Ten of the eleven coins I purchased from this auction firm were downgraded in my auction. The most egregious example was a coin I had purchased in their auction last year which was described as an AU-50 (which it, indeed, was). The grade they assigned this very same coin in my auction was VF-30! (Obviously, the cataloger had no idea what he was doing!)

• Another grading error was with my 1814 O-106. This always-weakly-struck tough variety was an absolutely gorgeous coin, an EF-45 still retaining much of its mint lustre. Since the coin is so weakly struck, I referred the cataloger to Breen’s description of its weak strike in his *Encyclopedia* (page 382, #4612), just in case he might be unfamiliar with it. The cataloger blew it again, calling it a VF-35 and lumping it in another “dealer lot” with no description.

Certainly, there are a lot of very happy dealers out there, reselling my “hidden rarities” for many times their auction purchase prices.

My point in all of this is not to complain, however. I get angry with deceit. These problems, though, were simply the result of incompetence. (Maybe I should be angry with the auction house for hiring an inexperienced cataloger, but I’m not.) The auction house, certainly, would have stood to make more profit on commissions had the cataloger known what he was doing. The other reason I’m not angry is, again, because I did at least break even.

But back to the original issue. I still believe that collectors of common coins will almost always lose money when they try to resell coins to dealers. However, certainly specialists and other experts who know what they’re doing, who can successfully “cherry-pick”, and who collect coins that are truly rare and have substantial demand (such as many of the early bust coins) will likely profit in the long run. No question about it.

William Atkinson

In reply to your request for articles or ideas, how about an article on John Reich himself. I believe in Walter Breen's **Encyclopedia** he indicated that Mr. Reich placed a notch somewhere on the 13th star of all dies prepared during his tenure: 1807 - 1817. Such type research done by a knowledgeable numismatist could be very interesting. In any event, keep up the good work.

David Bruckner

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I have decided not to return your questionnaire since I enjoy all your articles for different reasons and would not want to slight any by selecting one "best". (I feel that topic survey questionnaires are a better alternative.)

Have you ever considered including topic indexes (yearly and/or cumulative) in the **Journal**? As articles accumulate this could be an information resource of ever-necessary value.

Collis Miller

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Just a note to let you know Vol. 4, No. 3 was just tremendous, especially Mr. Downey's articles. One question I have is: JRCS authors ask questions concerning information about other people's findings, but hardly anyone has an address listed. Are we to answer all questions on our findings through you and the **Journal**? Thank you.

T. Craig Heibel

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Vol. 4, No. 3, dated December, 1989 but received April 1, 1990, is very, very late. But it is also a winner! Once more...NICE GOING.

Have to add that you are getting some top notch help.

Sorry I could (only) give William Atkinson an honorable mention instead of a vote for one, two or three. He deserved better. But Sheridan Downey's efforts are outstanding, and Russ Logan just had to get a vote somehow or other.

Being a former writer/editor for 19 years, I suggest that Sheridan may have missed his calling. With his writing talent he could name his own price many places.

In addition to my membership renewal check and ballot, I am enclosing a self-addressed postcard, hoping you will reply to my question: Do you take listings of appropriate books for sale?

George Hamilton

In your last **Journal**, in regard to Jay Fackelman's "1822/1 O-102A", I have a piece, later state, that I called 102A for over 25 years.

I acquired my piece in early 1962 and listed it as Beistle 76. It was shown to Stew Whitham and Al Overton in 1962 at the Penn-Ohio show in Columbus, Ohio. Both agreed (it was) a late die state. Both wanted to trade me out of it. At that time Stew didn't have one in his set.

On my coin--I have a die crack from rim thru 8 to curl--from curl to star 13 to rim. My piece is EF-40.

Here are some other interesting pieces in my collection. Was wondering if anybody else has come across the same:

1814 - 101 Rev - where the date 1814 shows in STATES OF. VF-25.

1818 - 104 Obv - No die cracks at all. VF-30.

1830 - 118 Rev - Obv embossed with a complete outline. Stars show at top of right wing and first set of olive leaves. Letters of Liberty show below stripes of shield. No mitting. VF-25.

1829 - 118 On edge - Fifty cents or half a dollar over a complete reeded edge.

Mike Marker

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The "December, 1989" issue of the **JR Journal** arrived this past Friday, and was read through not long after dinner that night. Late, to be sure, but another good issue. Does anyone else bat 1.000?

Tough decision on the three best articles, but my vote is enclosed. Also please find my renewal and a small donation.

You may pass on to Bill Fivaz that I have an 1836 B-1 quarter evidencing the same obverse die state shown and described in Vol. 4, No. 3, but my coin isn't nearly as nice as his. I'm happy that those photos came out so well. If I were to want one thing different in the **Journal**, it would be improved photographs. Could you share some guidelines on what is needed in the original photo to reproduce well in printing.

Sheridan Downey's account of ANA '89 was fascinating, but I am still waiting for the shoe to drop on the "new" bust half DM. Did I miss something in the numismatic publications or the story? Has it been determined whether it is not only different, but authentic too?

Keep up the good work...

Dick Kurtz

Using a stereo microscope, I have studied products of a number of obverse and reverse dies used in striking capped bust half dimes. As a result of these studies, I have accumulated rather 'detailed notes on these dies and their identification. Such notes could serve as a foundation for a work similar to the dime book, but many more specimens would need to be examined, particularly in order to elucidate emission sequences and die deterioration. Perhaps at some point a few or more years in the future, such an undertaking could be feasible.

I do not know at this time whether I would be going to Seattle, but if I complete an index of the 1985 through 1989 issues of the **JR Journal** for the Society, perhaps copies could be distributed at the meeting during the ANA and included with the first subsequent **Journal** issue.

Numismatically,

J. Alan Bricker

P.S. The dime book needs to be revised. How about a 2nd edition around 1994 (10 years after the first edition) with adjusted rarity ratings (almost always lower) and perhaps a listing of the top three specimens known for each die marriage? Revised rarity ratings might come from a poll of JRCS members knowledgeable in the series. If such a revision is not feasible, perhaps a "supplement" could be published, or an article included in the **Journal** with revisions to the dime book.

Anyone working on notes for a hardbound reference on the 1796-1838 quarters??

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Great Journal!! I look forward to each issue. The wealth of information in each issue sure aids me in understanding and appreciating numismatics. Keep up the good work.

Doug Pryor

MEMBER'S MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: 1801 half dime V-1, choice Fine, \$850. 1829 Curled Base 2 dime JR-10, Rev. punchmark on eagle's neck, otherwise choice F/VF, \$7500. 1804 quarter B-2, R-6/6+ AU - possible candidate for finest known, \$17,500. 1806 E/A half dollar, one of the finest known EF (lite cleaning), \$6500. 1797 Sm. eagle, Sm. lett. dollar B-2, Obv. rim nick, otherwise choice VF, \$3750.

Larry Briggs, P.O. Box 187, Lima, Ohio 45802 (419) 228-2285.

Double Profile Bust Halves -- Another Update

I have noticed over the past months, especially since Bill Atkinson's article (JR Journal Vol. 3, No. 1), a number of writers who have submitted their additions to the published list of holdings. Mike Marker added still more to the list with his article (Vol. 4, No. 1). I have been collecting "double profile" halves for a few years and provide the following listing of my accumulation.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Offset</u>
1813	O-101a	35	Widely recut chin	1/2mm
1819	O-111	45	Dbl tip of chin to mid chest	1/4
	O-113	25	Obverse almost entirely doubled including stars	1/8
1823	O-103	63	Entire coin doubled obverse and reverse (Collection)	1/8-1/4
	O-104	30	Dbl base of nose to mid chest	1/4
	O-104	48	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/4
	O-104	40	Dbl top of throat to mid chest	1/2
	⊙-104	60	Dbl tip of nose to mid chest	1/4
	O-105	35	Dbl curl to base of throat and at ribbons rear of bust	1/4
	O-107	50	Most of coin double struck obverse and reverse	1
	O-110	40	Dbl nose to mid chest	1/2
	O-111a	40+	Triple profile curl to mid chest	1
	O-112	30	Triple profile curl to mid chest	1/4
	* O-112	62	Dbl curl to base of neck	1/4
	O-112	45	Dbl curl to mid throat	1/4
	O-103	25	Dbl rear bust	1/4
1824	O-101a	45	Dbl eye to base of bust	1/8
	* O-103	50	Dbl eye to mid chest and inside left wing at head and mid point	1/8
	O-104	35	Dbl under chin, nose and some stars	1/8mm
	O-105	50	Dbl nose and chin and left wing top reverse	1/4

1824	O-106a	12	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/4
(con't)	O-107	40	Dbl chest and date	1/8
	O-107	45	Dbl chest	1/8
	O-109	30	Dbl nose to chin	1/4
	O-109	40	Dbl tip of nose to top of throat	1/8
	O-109	48	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/8
	O-110	25	Dbl curl to mid chest	1/8
	O-110	40	Dbl top of nose to chin	1/8
	O-111	8	Dbl chin	1/2
	O-111	25	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/2
	O-111	25	Dbl curl to mid bust	1/4
	O-111	35	Dbl curl to base of throat	1/2
	O-111	40	Dbl rear bust	1/4
	O-111a	40	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/2
	O-111	50	Dbl tip of nose to top of throat	1/4
	O-111	25	Dbl eye to mid bust	3/4
	O-115	48	Dbl along nose and bust only	1/2
	O-115	10	Dbl tip of nose to eye	1/4
	O-115	20	Dbl tip of nose to eye	1/4
	O-116	20	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/4
	O-116	30	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/4
	O-116	20	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/4
	* O-116	50	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/16
1825	O-102	15	Dbl top of throat to mid chest	1/4
	O-103	20	Dbl eye to mid chest	1/8
	O-103	20	Dbl eye to top of throat	1/8
	O-103	35	Triple profile eye to mid chest	1/2
	O-103	40	Dbl eye to base of throat	1/4
	O-105	50	Dbl mid nose to mid bust	1/2
	O-105	20	Dbl top of throat to mid bust	1/4
	* O-105	50	Dbl curl to mid bust	1/4
	O-105	55	Dbl at nose and throat	1/4
	O-108	45	Dbl chin to mid chest (Collection)	1/2
	O-112	40	Dbl tip of nose to eye	1/8
	O-113	40	Dbl at throat	1/4mm
	O-113	40	Dbl curl to mid chest	1/2
	O-114	45	Dbl tip of nose to eye	1/8
1826	O-101	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/4
	O-102	12	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
	O-102	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/4

1826	O-105	6	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
(con't)	O-105	30	Triple profile eye to mid bust	1/2
	O-105	40	Dbl eye to chin and chest	1/8
	O-105	40	Dbl eye to mid bust	1/8
	O-105	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/4
1828	O-110	35	Dbl curl to lips	1/8
1830	O-106	45	Dbl curl to base of bust	1
	O-113	55	Dbl eye to lips	1/8
	O-113	58	Dbl eye to lips	1/2
	O-113	25	Dbl eye to tip of nose	1/4
	O-109	35	Dbl at throat	1/8
1831	O-109	40	Dbl tip of nose to top of throat	1/4
1832	O-110	40	Dbl curl to chin	1/8
	* O-110	50	Dbl tip of nose to base of neck (Near coin surface, low like recut)	1/8
	O-111	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
	O-111	40	Dbl curl to chin	1/4
	O-111	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
	O-111	40	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
	* O-111	48	Dbl curl to tip of chin	1/8
	O-112	20	Dbl eye to chin	1/8
	O-122	35	Dbl at nose	1/8
1834	O-103	20	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/4
	O-103	30	Dbl tip of nose to base of throat	1/4
1836	O-122	55	Dbl tip of nose to chin and reverse, UNITED ST	1/4

*Seen but not owned

Don Parsley

The Numismatic Literature of Early U.S. Coinage

Several years ago, I was asked to write a series of articles for **Penny Wise**, the official publication of the Early American Coppers club. The articles dealt with numismatic literature available for the collectors of colonials, half cents, large cents, and early tokens and medals prior to the Civil War. Those articles, with several corrections and additions, were later reprinted in **The Asylum**, the aptly-named journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

A request for articles printed several issues ago included the subject of numismatic literature, so how could I resist? The last few months were spent taking books off the shelves, studying old literature auction catalogues and price lists, bibliographies and other publications. The end result was, literally, hundreds of useful references.

For this series of articles, it was necessary to adapt the same general guidelines as used in the EAC articles. All pieces of literature described here-in are books, monographs and reprints, in booklet form, from other types of publications. Although they are a virtual goldmine of information, it simply would not be possible to list the many thousand articles that have appeared in magazines, newspapers, club journals, price lists and auction catalogues of the last two centuries!

For those readers interested in such publications, I suggest obtaining a set of **Numismatic Literature**, published by the American Numismatic Society twice a year. Both the A.N.S. and the A.N.A. maintain large lending libraries. If you're a member of either organization, why not check it out? Elvira Clain-Stefanelli's **Numismatic Bibliography**, described later in this series, is another major source of information on articles published in periodicals as well as of auction catalogues of major collections. This work is occasionally found in the libraries of larger cities and universities.

The present listing follows the general format of author, title, publisher and/or place of publication (when known), date of publication, number of pages and types of illustrations, if any. A brief sketch of the work, its usefulness and a general idea of prices (derived mainly from recent auction catalogues and price lists of numismatic literature dealers) follows, along with any information on other editions or reprints.

That there are errors and omissions, I do not doubt. If collectors have any corrections, please write to me: Jeff Rock, NLG, Box 3447, San Diego, CA 92103. I'll be glad to list any changes in a supplemental article.

Adams, Edgar H. and Woodin, William H., **United States Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces**, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY, 1913, 196 pages, many halftone illustrations throughout the text.

The first text devoted exclusively to patterns, this work is basically a listing of the patterns in the collection of Woodin (who, a few years earlier had turned over to the government the two fifty-dollar gold patterns, Judd 1546 and 1548, and as partial compensation, received two trunks full of patterns). Three hundred copies were printed, and can be found for around \$100. A small number of copies were issued with the regular binding, interleaved pages and autographed by both authors, and have brought \$300. A special edition, limited to fifty copies, was prepared in full brown morocco, with interleaved pages. The only known sale of the piece was at the \$1500 level. Two reprints were prepared by James Kelly, Dayton, OH, the first in 1940 and the second in 1959. The former runs about \$25, while the latter usually brings \$15.

Adams, Edgar H., **Official Premium List of United States Private and Territorial Gold Coins**, New York, NY, 1909, 72 pages, many line drawings by Walter Blythe.

Although this work was long touted as just a price guide, there is a wealth of additional information, especially in the areas of private and territorial gold, which were one of Adams' specialties. Highly recommended. In the past decade a small hoard of the softcover edition has been found, enabling collectors to purchase examples of what was once a very scarce book for around \$20. A very limited edition was issued bound in maroon hard covers and interleaved pages. These generally command upwards of \$100. A reprint was prepared in 1977 by Willett, New York, NY. The reprint fetches around \$10.

Adams, John W., **United States Numismatic Literature, Volume 1, 19th Century Auction Catalogues**, 1982, 271 pages, illustrations.

A survey of early coin dealers and the auctions they conducted. Each auction is assigned grades, according to the contents of various collecting fields. The biographies and sketches of some of the famous names of the past make for very interesting reading. Although it may seem a bit pricey at \$85, I highly recommend it for all collectors interested in the early history of our hobby. Limited edition of 500 copies, the majority of which have long since been sold.

Akers, David W., **United States Gold Coins. An Analysis of Auction Records.**

A set of six volumes, covering each series of gold coins, as follows:

Volume I, Gold Dollars, 1849-1889, Paramount Publications, Englewood, OH (as are all to follow), 1975, 110 pages, halftone illustrations.

Volume II, Quarter Eagles, 1796-1929, 1975, 248 pages, halftone illustrations.

Volume III, Three Dollar Gold Pieces, 1854-1889 and Four Dollar Gold Pieces, 1879-1880, 1976, 92 pages, halftone illustrations.

Volume IV, Half Eagles, 1795-1929, 1979, 393 pages, halftone illustrations.

Volume V, Eagles, 1795-1933, 1980, 322 pages, halftone illustrations.

Volume VI, Double Eagles, 1849-1933, 404 pages, halftone illustrations.

Although some of the titles fall outside of the scope of the John Reich Collector's Society, the set, as a whole, is the most comprehensive listing and analysis of auction records for every date and mintmark in each series. A must for the collector of any gold coinage. Complete sets have become quite scarce, and can realize as high as \$300. Individual volumes are available for prices ranging from \$10 to \$40, though some searching will be required for the scarcer issues.

Akers, David W., **United States Gold Patterns**, Paramount, Racine, WI, 1975, 115 pages, numerous halftone and full color illustrations throughout the text.

A detailed look at each of the 51 patterns known to have been struck in gold, commencing with the first issue in 1836, Judd 67 (which falls into the scope of collecting set forth in the JRCS bylaws). A beautifully produced book, with valuable tips on rarity and appearances of known specimens. Now out of print and difficult to find for less than \$35.

American Numismatic Association, **Selections from "The Numismatist"**, United States Coins, Racine, WI, 1960, 301 pages, several halftone illustrations throughout text.

Part of a four-volume set, this work reprints articles originally appearing in the house organ of the A.N.A. between 1909 and 1959. Many articles on U.S. coinage are presented, including a few on early U.S. silver. All make for interesting reading. Well worth the \$10 or so the book costs.

American Numismatic Society, **America's Silver Coinage, 1794-1891**, New York, NY, 1987, 210 pages, many halftone illustrations.

This work publishes the papers read at the third Coinage of the Americas Conference, held in 1987 at the ANS museum in New York. The speeches that were presented were: "New Varieties of Early Half Dimes," by David Davis; "Early Dimes, 1796-1837" by Allen Lovejoy and William Subjack; "The Third Die: A

Different Look,” by Russell Logan; “Edge and Die Sequences on Early Half Dollars,” by Donald Gunnet and Ivan Leaman; “The Dollars of 1794-1803,” by Robert Stark; “An Update on The Fantastic 1804 Dollar,” by Eric Newman and Ken Bressett, “Unheralded Hub Changes in the Gobrecht Series,” by John McCloskey; “Early Seated Liberty Quarters,” by Roy Ash; “Seated Liberty Half Dollars,” by Randall Wiley and William Burgert; “Date Logotypes on Seated Liberty Dollars,” by David Cohen and “The Coinage and the ‘Crime’ of 1873,” by Harry X. Boosel. Still available from the ANS at \$15, and a “must-have” book for every collector serious about the early silver coinage of our nation.

American Numismatic Society, **Catalogue of the Collection of Gold Coins in the Cabinet of the American Numismatic Society**, New York, NY, 1909, 19 pages, no illustrations.

A brief listing of the gold coins in the collection of ANS, with no great details in any area. The catalogue was mainly produced to show what the ANS was lacking in the area of gold coinage, and members were duly implored to fill in the gaps, or to contribute funds to purchase the missing specimens. Although not of much use to the researcher, the book is quite scarce, and usually sells for around \$35.

American Numismatic Society, **Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins**, New York, NY, 1914, 134 pages, 39 superb plates.

One of the finest numismatic exhibitions ever held, with pieces loaned from some of the most prominent collections of the era. Included were four 1804 dollars, a Brasher doubloon, several unique colonials, patterns and territorial pieces. An absolutely indispensable guide for tracing pedigrees, since each coin is keyed to its owner. A very high quality publication, and quite scarce as is most early ANS material. Currently selling in the \$125-150 range, well below its value as a research tool.

Attinelli, Emanuel Joseph, **Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues in Which Occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States, Also a List of Catalogues or Price Lists of Coins Issued by Dealers, Also a List of Various Publications of More or Less Interest to Numisgraphics Which Have Published in the United States**, New York, NY, 1876, 123 pages.

Although eagerly sought by collectors of numismatic literature, this work is quite valuable to researchers in almost any area of numismatics, as it provides the name(s) of consignors to the various sales, as well as an abundance of obscure information not found elsewhere. Less than fifty originals were printed, and fewer than half that number still survive. Prices for this work are not commensurate

with its rarity, generally being around \$1500. In 1976, Quarterman Publications issued a reprint which features a foreword and rarity guide by noted collector John W. Adams. The reprint, published under the much shorter title, **A Bibliography of American Numismatic Auction Catalogues, 1828-1875**, is now out of print, and generally sells for \$30.

Beistle, M(artin) L(uther), A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties. Being & Description of each die variety used in the coinage of United States Half Dollars as far as the issues are known, covering the United States Mint at Philadelphia, and branches at New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City and Denver, Shippenburg, PA, 1929, 261 pages, frontis portraits of Beistle and David Proskey, 7 halftone plates.

Long the standard reference work in the series, some old-time collections still contain half dollars attributed to Beistle. Unfortunately, quite difficult to use for actually attributing coins. Original editions sell for around \$50-75. A limited edition of 135 copies was issued with seven photographic plates, far superior to the halftones in the regular issues, and bound in full morocco. These have sold at the \$350 level. In 1964, a reprint was prepared by Bebee's, Omaha, NE, and these sell for around \$25.

Betton, James L., editor, Money Talks. A Numismatic Anthology Selected from Calcoin News, California State Numismatic Association, 1972, 372 pages, extensive halftone illustrations.

A compilation of articles which have appeared in Calcoin News, the house organ of the CSNA, over the last 35 years. Although no "earth shattering" articles are presented, the book does make enjoyable light reading. Still available at under \$10.

Birdsall, C. M., The United States Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Georgia; It's History and Coinage, Easley, 1984, 119 pages, many halftone illustrations with six color plates.

A well-written work, giving good background history of the Dahlonega mint, as well as a thorough listing of its coinages. Available for around \$25.

Birdsall, C. M., The United States Branch Mint at Charlotte, North Carolina: It's History and Coinage, Easley, 1985, 123 pages, halftone illustrations and color plates.

A companion piece to the above work, this time examining, in detail, the

operations of the Charlotte mint, from the legislation surrounding its opening, to its eventual closing. An important work, available for around \$25.

Bolender, M(ilford) H(enry), The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803, Freeport, IL, 1950, 75 pages, 9 gravure plates.

The standard reference in the series. Bolender, who put together one of the finest collections of early dollars ever formed, was an astute collector, as well as a dealer who issued many fine auction catalogues, including the sale of his own collection. The nine plates in this edition are superior to any of the reprints that follow. A classic numismatic work, again belonging on the shelf of every serious numismatist. Original editions sell for around \$75, and are occasionally found with an errata sheet correcting a few textual and a single plate error. An undated reprint was prepared circa 1969 by Bebee's, Omaha, NE, which contains halftone plates, and generally fetches \$30. Krause Publications issued a reprint of the revised edition in 1982, also with halftone plates, which sells for around \$25-30. In 1987 Krause Publications issued another reprint, this one 96 pages long, and including an updated list of rarity. This volume is still in print, and can be obtained for around \$25. In addition, numerous valuation guides have been issued, including 1950, 1956, 1961, 1969, 1971 and 1974. Other years are probable, though unseen. The valuation guides are scarce, but usually command \$2-5 when offered together with the Bolender work.

Bowers, Q. David, Abe Kosoff: Dean of Numismatics, Bowers and Merena Galleries, Wolfeboro, NH, 1985, 351 pages, numerous halftones throughout the text.

Bowers, as usual, delivers a thoroughly readable, completely enjoyable book. Kosoff, who started in 1929 as a small-time dealer, eventually ended up as one of the most successful coin dealers of all time, handling virtually every rarity in the U.S. series, with special emphasis on private and territorial gold and U.S. patterns. Limited edition of only 500 copies. Available from the publisher at around \$20, and well worth the price.

Bowers, Q. David, Adventures with Rare Coins, Los Angeles, CA, 1979, 305 pages, several high quality halftones.

A most fascinating book, great for background reading, as well as to capture a feeling of what numismatics was like in the past. The anecdotal information, and a nostalgic foreword penned by dealer-collector-numismatist extraordinaire John J. Ford, Jr. make the book an absolute bargain at the \$15-20 level.

Bowers, Q. David, **Buyer's Guide to United States Gold Coins**, Wolfeboro, NH, 1989, 122 pages, several halftone illustrations.

Mainly aimed at the investor of gold issues, this book breaks gold coinage down into various types, provides combined mintage figures for the type, and, in chart form, lists the number of auction appearances for specific date and /or mintmarks. Available from the publisher at around \$20.

Bowers, Q. David, **The Compleat Collector**, Wolfeboro, NH, 1985, 40 pages, half of them cartoon style illustrations by Elli Ford.

A whimsical, often tongue-in-cheek look at the hobby. A great tonic for those of us who often get carried away with coins. At around \$5, this book is must reading.

Bowers, Q. David, **The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection**, Los Angeles, CA, 1979, 572 pages, with extensive black-and-white and color illustrations throughout the work.

What else can be added to the praises already lavished on this book? By far, the finest attempt at a general reference book yet produced in this country. The Garrett collection provided an incomparable opportunity to produce such a book, and the number of "wonder coins" depicted in its pages can still make the adrenalin flow a little faster. At a price of around \$40, this high quality book can and should be a standard item in any numismatic library. If a collector were to just start assembling a library, I'd strongly suggest that this and Walter Breen's Encyclopedia (listed below) be among the first volumes acquired.

Bowers, Q. David. **The Numismatist's Bedside Companion**, Wolfeboro, NH, 1988, 224 pages, no illustrations.

A collection of twenty-nine articles originally appearing in the pages of the firm's **Rare Coin Review**. Interesting reading, and sure to be perused time and time again. Still available from the publisher at under \$10.

Bowers, Q. David, **The Numismatist's Fireside Companion**, Wolfeboro, NH, 224 pages, no illustrations.

A companion volume to the above work, this one reprints twenty-six articles, including one penned by famous collector Louis Eliasberg on the formation of his incomparable collection. Also available for under \$10.

(To Be Continued)

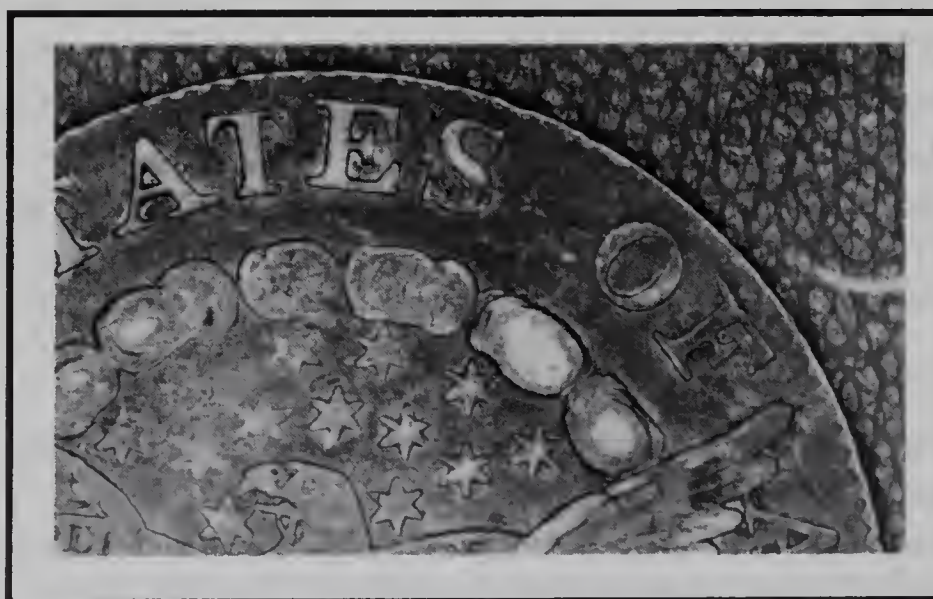
Rim Breaks on 1806 B-9 Quarter

Of the ten varieties of 1806 quarter, B-9 is certainly the most common. It is usually found in fairly nice condition, which is not true of many of the other varieties.

There are several cracks on the obverse of the coin, but of more interest are the reverse rim breaks. In addition to the ones shown, there is one over ED of UNITED, but, since it is a very shallow one and does not appear on some strikes, I have not included it in this article.

The die states shown are:

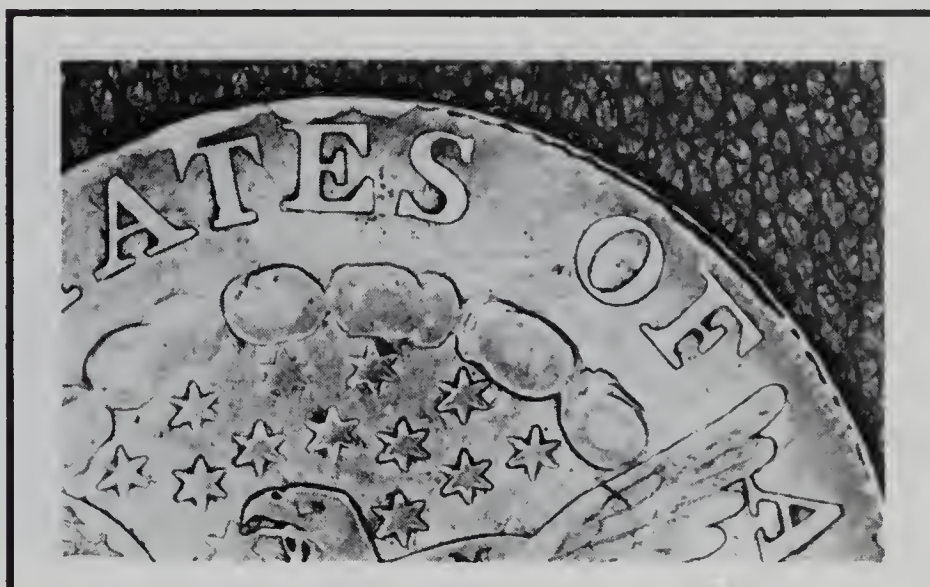
- a. Perfect, no rim break
- b. One rim break, over the second T in STATES
- c. Three rim breaks, over E and between E and S in STATES
- d. Four rim breaks, over OF
- e. Five rim breaks, between the right wing tip and the first A in AMERICA
- f. Five rim breaks, the latest one having grown to cover the distance from F to the first A



State a - Perfect



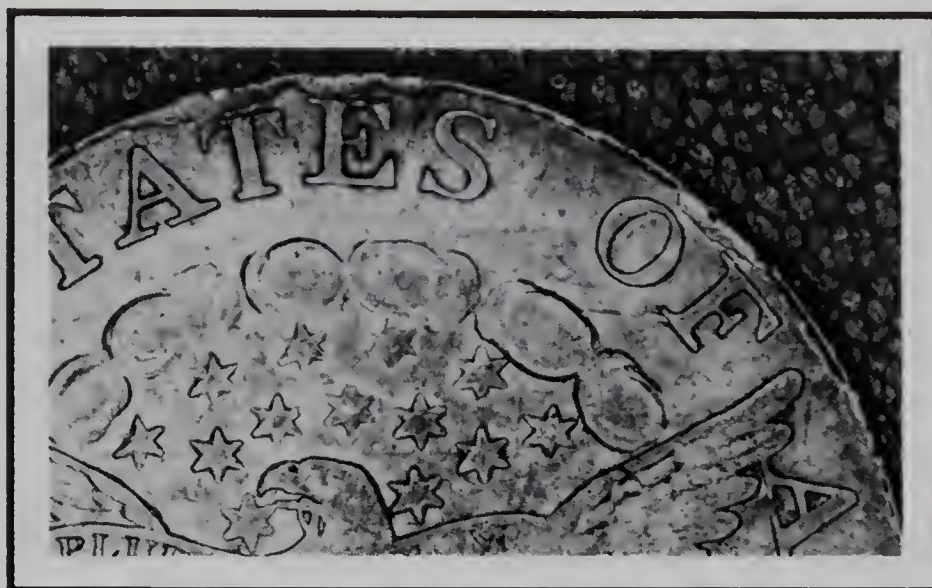
State b - Rim break T3



State c - Rim breaks T3 and ES



State d - Rim breaks T3, ES and OF



State e - Rim breaks T3, ES, OF, wing tip and A2



State f - Rim breaks T3, ES, OF, F and A2

It is quite probable that there are other states, some in-between and some later. I'd like to know about any others.

Jules Reiver
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Questioning the Capped Bust Half Dollars

What with the ever increasing popularity of capped bust half dollars, it is no surprise that an incredible mass of questions have appeared over the last decade. Now, as each year passes, authors give birth to articles with new ideas or approaches as to the halves "collectability", creation and history. And the research, which is often an ongoing gradual process at best, is quickly absorbed by the serious student who seems to have an undying thirst for still more knowledge of these fascinating old coins. During a study today unaccountable suppositions having no actual basis in fact incessantly crop up. But all of this is understandable. The collector base is growing as serious collecting enthusiasts strive to learn all they can about the halves of 1807-36. This, in my opinion, is as it should be.

Not long ago, during a telephone conversation with a serious collector, he asked, "How do you guys come up with some of these answers?" At the time (as the discussion concerned a counterfeit half) I probably did not completely answer this question but now, and here, I will try.

First, understand that there is no bachelor or masters degree in capped bust half numismatology. Nearly everything must be studied, restudied and learned on one's own. Most researchers are collectors first and the only difference between a researcher and a collector is that while the collector waits for new information, facts and theories to be published, the researcher/collector "goes after" this information on his own.

Many believe that Haseltine, Beistle and Al Overton covered all that could be known about these halves. Covered and recovered. However, nothing could be further from the truth. I don't mean to slight these men in any way, for they are truly the "fathers" of capped bust half collecting and their studies are nothing short of fantastic and monumental. But researchers today are beginning to examine untouched ground in the understanding of minting methods, variety identification, counterfeits, and a host of other "things" which make up the halves' overall collecting picture. Concentrated studies are dissecting past knowledge and theories and some of the findings have proven to be truly amazing.

But where does all of this research start? What makes a collector turn researcher? And how does one go about research? For what purpose?

Generally, all of this starts with a question. The complexity or simplicity of this question is usually based on the collector's interest and experience. A new

collector of capped bust halves may ask, "Why are there no halves dated 1816?" A simple question and one that can easily be answered by a quick trip to a library or perusal of the ever popular **Redbook**. None are dated 1816, of course, because of the fact that none were minted bearing this date. But why? Further readings show that a fire broke out at the Mint destroying much of the planchet making machinery. Thus the simple question is answered. We will come back to this in a moment but let me stray here to point out that in order to do proper research you must assemble a good "working library". Aside from the Overton, Haseltine and Beistle tomes you should also, at the very least, obtain copies of the following:

- **Overton's Supplement** - by the BHNC
- **History of U.S. Coinage and Counterfeits** - By Don Taxay
- Much of Breen's work (on the various coinages and early minting methods) - by Walter Breen
- **America's Silver Coinage** - by the ANS
- **Coin World's Almanac** (latest edition) - by Coin World
- **Standard Catalog of United States Altered and Counterfeit Coins** - by Hancock and Spanbauer
- **United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces** (latest edition) - by Judd
- **Past JR Journals**, auction catalogs (and the list could go on and on).

Actually a complete article could be written listing available published material. However, this is not an "assemble your library" article, as I am simply attempting to lead you in the right direction.

Getting back to the "where it all starts question", a more complex example might be: "How were the working dies created?" Again your reference library should hold the "basic" answer for you. I state "basic" because much speculation and theory abounds in this area. This is often where true research begins to take place. A study of the halves under a microscope will reveal many things and this often leads the researcher in the direction of creating a plaster model of a working die(s) which in turn often leads to more complex questions.

Were the stars punched in one at a time or was a curved logo-type punch used for each side of the central Liberty device? Now comes the fun part. You have to research the past published research and then do your own study to prove or disprove what has been published. In other words, you have to question and prove conclusively whether past research was based on study evidence or a passing thought or theory. You must use your head to devise ways in which to reach your ultimate goal--THE TRUTH! Think. Perhaps the answer lies in the measurement of stars? Or maybe photographic blow-ups would help? How about overlays or transparencies? Yes, this is the "ticket". And once created, the overlays or transparencies prove concretely that the halves star "patterns" are all minutely

different. Thus a logo-type punch was not used (as some published books and some numismatists would lead you to believe) but rather each star was individually punched, one at a time, into the working die. Case closed. but is it? While doing this study the researcher may notice that the stars are of a different size (from 1807 to 1836 issues, for example), and this could direct him to the question of when the star punches were changed. This of course leads him back to the microscope and the coins themselves. Furthermore, he now wonders what that “scalloped thing” is (Reich’s trademark), on the 13th star on the early issues. And why, he ponders, do some half’s stars show remnants of extra star points (recutting)? Additionally, how on earth can a variety which shows these marks in an early state struck half, later, on a later state, show no recutting and sharper struck stars?!! Do you see the question “snowball” effect?

Again the researcher “hits” the books, checks his plaster “dies” and this time after logical thought and further experimentation, discovers that “lapping” of the working die was responsible for those changes first viewed through the microscope. Still other star questions may arise, and it is often solely up to the researcher to devise ways to prove the earlier unprovable. And the amazing part is-- he probably will!

If persistent and inquisitive in nature then one quickly becomes “hooked” on the investigation. The studies will answer your question and help you to understand the capped bust half dollar as few other living beings...at least in your area of study. It is the search that will drive you on. The satisfaction of knowing the truth will be your reward--and today, for many, this is exactly what is happening.

Above, I have used the example for the star device, but let us take this one step further. Let us look at the obverse of a capped bust half and create a few questions by dissecting each individual device. These questions will be nothing more than “food for thought” for some, may be answered by others, or perhaps may start someone in the exciting field of personal capped bust half dollar research. The obverse of the capped bust half dollar consists of the following devices:

1. Central Liberty device
2. Four date numerals
3. Thirteen six-point stars
4. The dentilated border

As an example, let us look at No. 1, the Liberty device. Just how complete was it when “hubbed” into the working die? Did it contain all elements or was it incomplete with the word LIBERTY on the headband added later in the die creation? Were curls in the hair touched up or deepened in the working die? (I know

many of you JRCS'ers or BHNC'ers know these answers but let's create some food for more original thought and studies). Why is Liberty's profile "doubled" on many halves of the 1820's and how many differences in design can you find that indicate new master obverse die usage in the series?

In researching these questions you will find that not only will other questions appear, but also that Lady Liberty went through some extreme changes in only a few decades. And, of course, you will question--Why? The reduced bust style of Liberty in later years was created for a reason--Why? The original 1807 obverse Liberty device lasted only two years--Why? Liberty's lips appear to be separated on some issues of the same marriage, yet closed on other issues of the exact same marriage--Again, why? A raised dot sometimes appears on Miss Liberty's neck--Why?

By viewing various halves under your microscope many other questions, I am quite sure, will arise. And most all have explicable, logical, factual answers--if only you take the time to study and look.

This type of questioning applies to each individual smaller device too. The date numerals--were they created with a logo punch or an individual punch? Complete numerals or crude? Then there are recutting questions, spacing questions, and what are those raised irregular dots sometimes found in the field around the numerals? What about those die cracks and chips in the numeral figures?

Dentilation is often fascinating. How was it created? (Be careful here in your assumptions, as published information is often more wrong than right.) Are there a set number of dentils making up the obverse dentilated border? Or do they differ from year to year (or die marriage to die marriage)? How were the dentils laid out?

Similar questions can be applied to each and every device on the halves. Let us now review the reverse:

1. Eagle device
2. Shield
3. Scroll
4. Scroll lettering (incuse)
5. Legend letters
6. Denomination numeral figures
7. Dentils
8. Arrows
9. Olive branch/berries

Viewing each of these items under the microscope can send your thoughts from one question to the next, and the more halves you view the better your “eye” will become. You must train your eyes to see the unusual or what others simply miss.

And what about the “third side” of the coin--the lettered edge. Yes, there are those who are studying this area in detail, far beyond the star added on the inscription, boxed vertical and diagonal bars and the so-called experimental edges. These are all areas that you too can study for yourself. Do not rely simply on the published books. Many areas of study have not been touched by the book authors and much still needs to be covered.

A point worth mentioning is that the more you familiarize yourself with the master, hub, working die relationship, the easier it becomes to view the devices (under magnification) and see things in “reverse”--as they would be on the working die or master. Then through the analysis of this opposite relationship you can correctly deduce the hub’s characteristics.

Another tip for first time researchers is to try to view halves in the highest grade possible (at least initially). The wear, for example, on a lower grade half will, in many cases, obliterate much of the finer detail of, say, an added serif which is often higher (or lower) than the rough punched numeral or letter figure. Once several halves have been viewed in this manner then the “odd things” on the lower grade halves become more recognizable as to their true identification.

Good research can only be accomplished through the use of proper tools. In the same way that the carpenter needs the quality hammer and saw, the capped bust half researcher needs his good quality equipment also. The microscope, a good illuminator, a comparator (with measuring reticle), a quality loupe, and a good set of scales are a few of the tools that come to mind. Fortunately, would-be researchers do not have to search the world over for these items as all are available from a single source: Edmund Scientific Co., 101 E. Gloucester Pike, Barrington, NJ 08007-1380. The seventy-plus page catalog is free for the asking, and most individuals cannot believe the “neat” items within its pages.

If you are the kind of collector for whom the rewards of collecting and attributing are first and foremost, then you should collect as you damn will please, and only be satisfied when you have reached your collecting goals. But if you are the type of collector that yearns for the explanations to unanswered “secrets”, then personal capped bust half dollar research may be exactly what you’re looking for. Much is there for all of us to study and discover.

Edgar E. Souders

CONJECTURE ON THE ORIGIN OF THE 1820/19 CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR. A MULTIPLE OVERDATE?

Al Overton notes in his book that some people have mistaken the 1820/19 half dollar for an 1820/18. Overton states, in describing the 1820/19 O-101: "Often called an 18, however, examination of accompanying photographs will show positively that it is over 19, and photo No. 2 will illustrate why it was easily mistaken for 18 as the thin lower loop of the 9 disappeared with use, leaving only the small projections at sides showing. However, the tail of the 9 is still visible in tiny projection at lower left in 0."

In describing the 1820/19 O-101a, he adds: "Same as 1 except the thin line showing at bottom loop of 9 inside 0 is now disappearing leaving the side projections that are sometimes mistaken for an 8."

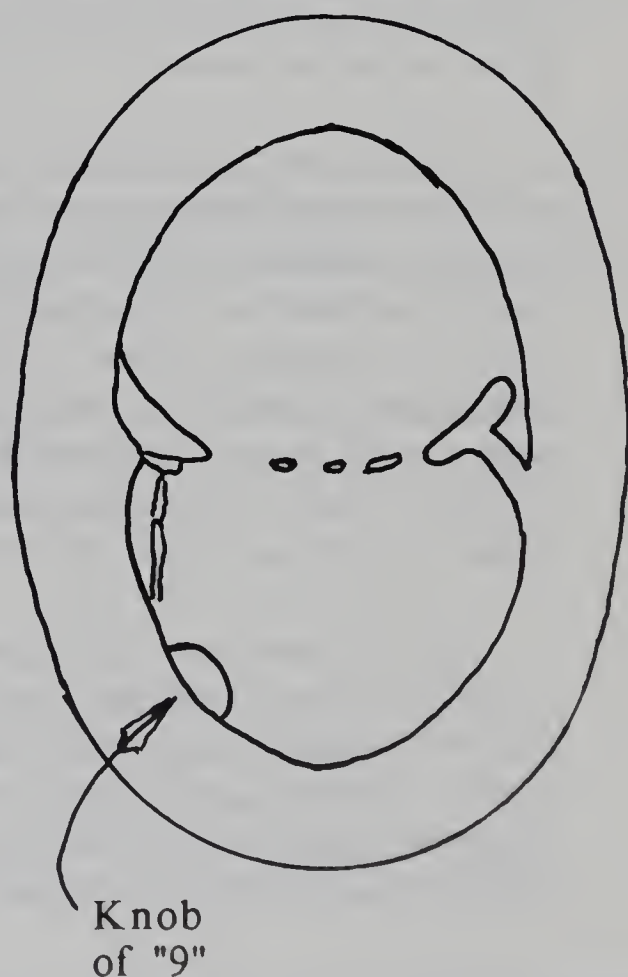
On the surface, this explanation may make sense, and examination of examples of the 1820/19 overdate with a 5X, 10X, and even 20X magnifying glasses might not provide sufficient detail to dispute such a description and explanation.

However, I have examined a number of examples of the 1820/19 overdate with a 45X stereo microscope and have made some interesting observations. On examples in high grades (EF-40 and above, where circulation wear does not play a major factor):

1 - There is a small, but definite, vertical line rising from the bottom left inside arc of the '0' and a thinner extension of that line connecting with the left 'projection' (see drawing to the right), and

2 - The 'projection' on the right is actually a tri-segment (as shown in the drawing).

Could these lumps and pieces be the vestiges of an '8'?



Most certainly, the knob at the bottom left inside arc of the '0' is that of a '9,' so it may be that the variety is actually a multiple overdate: an 1820 over 1819 over 1818 (1820/19/18). That is, the '8' was partially removed and replaced with a '9,' which was ultimately removed and replaced with a '0.'

If these observations and conjectures are correct, then there is a new overdate in the Capped Bust Half Dollar series: the 1820/19/18.

(The 1824 O-103 is another example of a multiple overdate, so the possibility of a triple-year overdate does exist in the capped bust series.)

The 1820/19 O-102 seems to be as described by Overton, with no vestiges of an '8.'

Any comments, questions, and/or discussion from readers are most welcome.

William Atkinson P.O. Box 1150 Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

FOR SALE: Back issues of the JR Journal.

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Vol. 2	No. 2	July 1987
Vol. 2	No. 3	December 1987
Vol. 3	No. 1	April 1988
Vol. 3	No. 2/3	December 1988
Vol. 4	No. 1	July 1989
Vol. 4	No. 2	September 1989
Vol. 4	No. 3	December 1989

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A FRIDAY SURPRISE

The September 1989 issues of the **JR Journal** contained an article titled 'A SATURDAY SURPRISE.' It related my discovery of a rare capped bust half die marriage, the 1827 O-127 R-5, in my dupe box. This was truly a valuable find as I had only paid \$65 for it. Not long after that the Munson collection came up for auction and his 1827 O-127 a choice VF sold for the unbelievable, at the time, \$4070. You read about it in Sheridan Downey's article in the last issue of the **Journal**.

Instead of being unlucky, Friday the thirteenth, April, 1990 proved very lucky for me. I was one of the fortunate people who had the day off and had decided, at my wife's suggestion, to visit the new Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. There, I found the rarest of the rare. An item that may be unique. What is it you ask? Keep reading.

On display in the 'Settlement' exhibit was a strange looking device described as follows:

Tool, counterfeiting. Date c. 1835

Dimensions: 3 1/2"h.(8.9cm) X 10"w.(25.4cm) X 2 1/2"d.(6.4cm)

A) Base consists of flat file or rasp w/small, drilled hole at either end. Centered on file is "H"-shaped superstructure consisting of 2 hollow uprights & horizontal bar fitted between them, secured by screws from top and upper sides.

B) Lever or arm (9 7/8" l.) is solid oblong bar, split near one end to form open, downward-curving handle.

C) Die plate is flat brass rectangle w/widely-chamfered corners on one short end. Has drilled hole at each square corner & 3 across chamfered end. Centered on plate is engraved obverse of 1835 U.S. half-dollar. Consists of right profile of Liberty. Has series of stars around outer edge and date to left of center beneath figure.

What you see above was actually taken from the accession card. The display was labeled "Taken from a counterfeiter in Palmyra, Lenawee Co., in 1835." Next to it was a grey colored impression, (plaster, maybe) from the die. All of this was behind glass and I could not get a very good look at the mechanism or the impression. What I could see left me with no doubt about what the impression showed, an 1835 capped bust half dollar obverse. Needless to say I was one very excited bust half nut.

There, in the case, was a contemporary counterfeit die of my favorite coin, and it was from Michigan. I didn't have a camera with me so I couldn't take any pictures. After discussions with the two different people at the information desk and the curatorial secretary, I was finally able to talk to the Assistant Curator. She brought out a notebook with a one page description for each item on display. A request for more information only resulted in a three by five card with the description noted above and the fact that the counterfeiting apparatus had been donated to the State on Feb. 7, 1878 by one O.E. Jenison.

There was a very minuscule photo attached but worthless for reproduction. I am sorry that I don't have any pictures to include with this article, but I just couldn't wait to start writing about my find. For now you will just have to imagine what it looks like from the description.

Those of you who know me well are aware of my interest in counterfeits and counterfeiters. I have a shelf full of books on the subject, and a small collection of bogus bust halves. One of the books is titled The / Life of Silé Doty / 1800 - 1876 / The Most Noted / Thief and Daring Burglar / of His Time. / A Forgotten Autobiography. My copy is a 1948 reprint of the 1880 book compiled by J.G.W. Colburn.

Silas was from that part of Michigan and, if the book is to be believed, he also was a counterfeiter. I have never been able to find corroborative evidence of any kind about the people mentioned in the book and have always been sceptical of its authenticity. Will I be any luckier this time? Will I be able to find out any more about the person who made the die and probably some coins?

I have, since then, talked to the exhibit curator and she has agreed to notify me the next time they are going to work on the display. I also have a contact with the Lenawee County Historical Society and maybe I can turn up something there.

As soon as I can get pictures of the apparatus and an impression, I will publish them. Any bets as to whether any of the bogus coins exist? I won't be the lucky one, initially. I don't have any counterfeit 1835 half dollars.

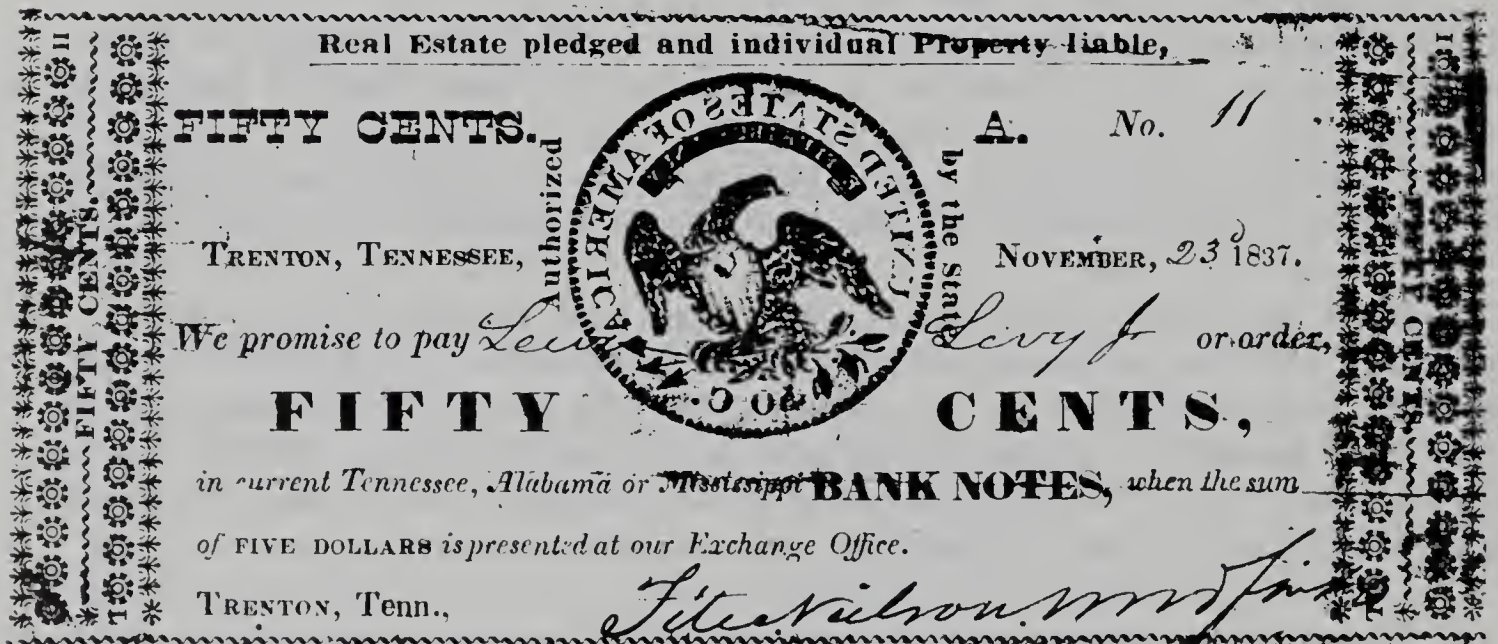
David Davis

FRONTIER INGENUITY & COINCIDENCES

This tale began last year when I was browsing through the April, 1989 issue of "Bank Note Reporter" (BNR). The Tennessee obsolete bank note shown below was pictured on page 35 with the caption:

"Frontier ingenuity at work

Elaborate printing equipment would have been hard to come by in Trenton, Tenn., 150 years ago, but that didn't stop the pioneer printer from including a vignette on this typeset 1837 scrip note. It appears as if a Liberty Capped half dollar was locked in the printing form along with the type, and used to create this reverse impression. The note indicates it is redeemable "in current Tennessee, Alabama or Mississippi Bank Notes." (Courtesy NASCA)"



Being a 'Bust Nut,' the mirror image impression of a Capped Bust Half Dollar reverse caught my eye. A call to Steve Goldstein, of NASCA, Inc., produced very little information. They bought the note last year and sent it to BNR for pictures and publication. When nothing showed up in the paper for almost a year a call to the editor resulted in the above picture and caption. I asked to look at the note and, ultimately, bought it.

Here is what I have found out, so far. Trenton is the Gibson County seat, and located in rural western Tennessee. It is seven miles northeast of Frog Jump. The earliest known bank in Trenton was the

Bank of Tennessee Branch, chartered in 1838. Moses Woodfin (1838-1840) was the first President and John A. Taliaferro (1838-1861) the first cashier. Strangely enough, in his book, Garland stated, "For some unaccountable reason there are no known fractional notes on this branch."

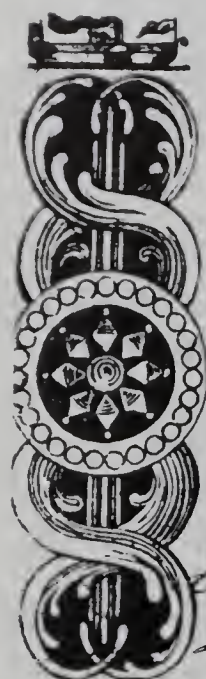
I have a 1977 road map that lists Trenton's population as 4,226. The note was issued to Lewis Levy, Jr. on November 23, 1837. Banking history buffs will recognize the date as coinciding with the "Banking Panic of 1837." It was an era of 'Broken Banks' and worthless paper money. There were extreme money shortages and specie, or hard money, was being hoarded, and in very short supply. The issuers, or signatories, appear to be Tites Neilson and M.M. Finta (???), and both signatures seem to be by the same hand. One puzzling feature is the letters in the decorations. If the note is rotated CCW so the right hand FIFTY CENTS is readable, there is an 'I' in the upper left hand corner & an 'L' in the lower right hand corner of what is now the top decoration and an 'L' & 'H' in the same corresponding positions of the bottom decoration. Maybe it is a clue to the printer responsible for this piece of handiwork! The half dollar used to print the note appears to have been an 1832 O-103.

Other than that, I haven't been able to find out anything of significance. The note was unknown to Paul Garland, when he wrote The History of Early Tennessee Banks and Their Issues in 1983. I have talked to Paul twice, but he isn't sure if he ever saw another example. I haven't been able to contact Charles Sedman, another prominent collector, who is supposed to be working on a new book about Tennessee scrip. I have also been trying to contact George Hatie, a prominent collector of coin notes. George wrote an extended series of articles on coin notes in the April & May, 1975 and December, 1981 & January, 1982 issues of "The Numismatist."

My plan to do more research before publishing the above note changed after the BHNC annual pre-ANA 'Corn Roast,' on August 7th. I took the note along for 'show and tell,' and here is where the COINCIDENCES began. Stew Witham showed up with two more examples of fractional currency with Capped Bust Half Dollar reverse vignettes. Both notes were Canadian and of the same era, the 1830's. It wasn't clear to me, then, that Stew intended to sell the notes, and I didn't end up with them until the first day of the ANA convention, through the intervention of Sheridan Downey, III.

The one ECU or 60 SOUS (two shillings and six pence) note shown on the next page is one of a set of four pieces issued in Montreal by the DISTILLERIE DE St. DENIS. The other three denominations are

DISTILLERIE DE St. DENIS



St. DENIS,
9 Octobre, 1837.

UN ECU.

N^o. 1245

XXXXXX

*A demande,
que, nous payerons
billets de banques
Montreal, UN
mes de pas moins*



*pour valeur re=
au porteur. en
ayant cours a
ECU, en som=
d'une piastre.*



On demand for value received, we promise to pay to bearer, in Bank notes current at Montreal, TWO SHILLINGS AND SIX PENCE currency, in sums not less than five shillings.

Horace Nelson
Imprimerie de Louis Perrault, à Montréal.

30 SOUS (one shilling and three pence), 15 SOUS (seven pence half penny) and 10 SOUS (five pence). The last three used three different Spanish coins for vignettes. The quality of the half dollar image is an excellent one, and I almost think it may be some form of casting from an actual coin. Maybe someone would like to try and attribute it. You can see the printed date of 9 October, 1837, but may not be able to read the penned date of 19 November, 1837. The note was issued just four days before the Trenton note. The note is signed by (Dr.) Wolfred Nelson and Horace Nelson, not that much different than Neilson on the first note described at the beginning of this article. A rather weak coincidence? Dr. Nelson was a prominent physician and owner of the distillery. His story was told in an article published in "The CANADIAN PAPER MONEY JOURNAL (CPMJ), Vol.XXII, No.3, dated July 1986. There is another similar issue with the printed date, 12 July, 1837. And obviously the bilingual status of French Canadians was recognized on currency over one hundred and fifty years ago. The note is printed in both, English and French.

The third note in my tale (see next page) is a remainder, or unissued, note by W. & J. Bell of Perth, Upper Canada - now Ontario. The half dollar vignette is an engraving, and typical of the quality of the era. Under the 30 Pence on the left side of the note 'Bourne' is printed in very small letters. I suspect it is the name of the engraver, not the printer.



I showed the first note to some ANA convention dealers, trying to solicit information, and all I found was yet another note. Tom Denly has one priced at \$400. It was too rich for my blood and probably went back to Boston,

In addition to the above mentioned copy of the July, 1986, CPMJ, Stew Witham also furnished me with the following list of Canadian scrip issues with U.S. coin vignettes:

Z. Clouthier & J.B. LeBlanc
 Ign Dumouchelle
 Thimothee Franchere
 B. Joliette
 A.E. Montmarquet
 Francois Penard
 A. Pinet
 Francois Plante
 *Eustache Brunet Dit Letang
 W.U. Chafers
 *Jean Baptiste Clement
 Cuvillier & Sons
 Banques de cette Ville
 Asahel Whipple
 *Distillerie de St. Denis
 *W. & J. Bell

St. Jacques, Lower Canada
 Rigaud, Lower Canada
 St. Mathias, Lower Canada
 St. Paul de Lavaltrie, L.C.
 Carillon, Lower Canada
 Montreal, Lower Canada
 Varennes, Lower Canada
 Laprairie, Lower Canada
 Pointe Claire, Lower Canada
 St. Cesaire, Lower Canada
 Riviere du Chaine, L.C.
 Montreal, Lower Canada
 Montreal, Lower Canada
 Coteau Dulac, Lower Canada
 Montreal, Lower Canada
 Perth, Upper Canada

(* I own at least one example)

Shortly after I had completed the above portion of this article I went to the Central States Numismatic Society Fall Convention in Battle Creek, MI. When I got there I was surprised to find an almost empty bourse floor and the dealers playing cards with each other. I hadn't gone very far before I discovered John McCloskey had been there before me, and resigned myself to the fact I was unlikely to find much in the way of rare early U.S. silver or 'Classic' half eagles. I made my rounds looking for both coins and Michigan Paper Money for my collections. I stopped by the table of NumisValu and innocently inquired if he had any Canadian scrip with half dollar vignettes. The owner, Barry Wexler, said he wasn't sure but he had just bought an extensive collection of coin notes and I was welcome to look at them.

A quick glance through the pile told me I was in trouble. He had more than a dozen examples with vignettes of early U.S. quarters and half dollars. There were both Canadian and U.S. issues. I picked out seven notes in my price range and realized this was going to be fun as there are, apparently, a lot of different notes with early U.S. coin vignettes. I now have the following U.S. notes and plan to do at least one more article in a future issue.

Bank of the State of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Alabama	50¢
Mechanics Hall Assoc. of Newark, NJ		25¢, 50¢
Farmers Bank of Virginia	Winchester, Virginia	50¢
Lumberman's Bank at Warren	Pittsburgh, PA	25¢, 50¢
Unknown Issuer		50¢, 75¢

I don't know how many other varieties exist with early U.S. coin vignettes, but there are notes with illustrations from half dimes to dollars. Any of them would certainly make a nice display alongside the same coin in silver. I will continue searching for more information about these notes, as time permits, and would be interested in hearing about any similar notes owned by our members.

David J. Davis

MEMBER'S MARKETPLACE

WANTED: JR Journal Vol.1 No.1; sets considered.

Robert Galiette, 10 Wilcox Lane, Avon, CT 06001.

ATTENTION BUST NUTS: Detailed report on the availability of high-grade Capped Bust Halves (1807-1836) in EF-40 to MS-67 based on analysis of 10,000 specimens of all 450 varieties. Based on six years of data from 100+ dealers and auction houses. Write or call for more details (618-684-3571 Days; 618-684-1895 Evenings or send \$10 for complete report to:

William Atkinson, P.O. Drawer 1150, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

John Reich Collectors Society

**P.O. Box 205
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for 12-month period ending 30-Sept-89

Cash Position at 01-Oct-88

Checking Account	\$1,948.62		
Life Membership Account	2,250.00		
On Hand	0.00		
		Total	\$4,198.62

Income

Back Issues Sales	\$ 463.95		
Interest	372.69		
Dues	4,261.00		
Life Membership Account	500.00		
		Total Income	\$5,597.64

Expenses

Supplies	\$ 155.05		
Journal	2,902.65		
Postage	1,106.15		
Misc	230.00		
		Total Expenses	\$4,393.85

Cash Position at 30-Sept-89

Checking Account	\$2,652.41		
Life Membership Account	2,750.00		
On Hand	0.00		
		Balance	\$5,402.41

